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"GRIZZLY" ON TV

A University of Montana athlete is called a Grizzly and so is a non-athletic student. The dangerous animal is supposed to be the school's mascot.

While there is no grizzly bear kept on campus, two faculty members know a great deal about where the bears can be found off campus. Drs. John and Frank Craighead have been studying the habits of the animals for years within Yellowstone National Park.

The Craighead brothers and the grizzlies they have been studying will be the subject of a National Geographic Society hour-long color TV special, "Grizzly," on the evening of November 1, over the CBS network.

The researchers use a drug-filled dart to temporarily immobilize the bears while they examine them. Measurements, pulse and blood chemistry are recorded and the bear is fitted with a special collar equipped with a radio transmitter that enables the Craigheads to later locate the bear.

The grizzly once roamed the prairie of what is now Montana. While they saw the grizzly farther east, Lewis and Clark made their first kill near what is now the Montana-North Dakota border on the Missouri River. Since then the animal has sought refuge in the mountains and seems to be aimed toward extinction.

The Craighead brothers' research is aimed at learning more about the animal to save it for future generations.

John Craighead is professor of forestry and zoology at UM and leader of the Montana Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit. His brother Frank holds the rank of professor of ecology at State University of New York and is also a UM Research Associate.

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